

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 23 of 1876.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 3rd June 1876.

WE take the following article from the *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 21st May, on the "Condition of the Cultivating Classes":—The condition of the cultivator in this country is far from enviable. With a few exceptions, the agricultural classes are generally sunk in extreme poverty. They, indeed, toil night and day to grow their crops, but, owing to their misfortune, they do not supply food enough for the year. The soil of India is remarkably fruitful and yields crops with but little labor; and though, from this circumstance, one might be led to think that the native peasant is a well-to-do man, still the facts are quite the reverse. A pair of plough-cattle, a piece of rag which scarcely conceals his nakedness, half meals, and an earthen vessel generally constitute the whole of the furniture, as well as the property, of a cultivator. A consideration of the subject shews that the poverty of the cultivator is solely due to the mahajuns. Payment of high rates of interest hardly leaves him anything wherewith to liquidate the principal. Even in years of full harvest their debts are not cleared. Considering that a loan is not obtained at a lower rate of interest than 37 or 38 per cent., nay, in some places even at double that rate, it is almost impossible that the cultivator should be free from debt, or be prosperous. There are, again, occasionally risks from drought and floods. To remove this pitiable condition of the peasantry, it is sometimes suggested that Government should open a number of agricultural banks for granting them loans at 12 per cent. This plan will, no doubt, be advantageous to the cultivator as an easier means of obtaining capital; but it will not be free from evils.

HOWRAH HITAKARI
May 21st, 1876.

It is not at all desirable that Government should engage in any trade. Moreover, owing to their poverty, Government will not find it easy to realize its due from the peasantry. Their debts will go on accumulating from year to year. By providing facilities for borrowing money, Government will only be thus bringing ruin on the agricultural classes. There will, again, be large scope offered for oppression in connection with the work of realizing the Government dues. Seeing that even men of education and intelligence are subjected to extortion at the hands of omlahs and others in the courts of Government, there would be no end of oppression and wringing money out of the ignorant peasants, if such a scheme were ever carried out. Instead of Government itself engaging in this money-lending business, it would, in our opinion, be better to leave it to private enterprise, and be content with only fixing the rate of interest between the mahajun and the ryot at no higher than 15 per cent.

2. The *Suhrid*, of the 23rd May, makes the following observations on the Mofussil Municipalities' Bill:—The lamented death of Lord Mayo, and the united protest of the people led Lord Northbrook to put his veto

SUHRID,
May 23rd, 1876.

on the oppressive Municipal Bill framed by Sir George Campbell. Sir Richard Temple, however, has secretly passed the Bengal Municipal Bill, which is characterized by a great many of the faults of the former. Should the new Viceroy give his assent to the measure, there would be no end of oppressions in the mofussil. Already the people in the interior frequently suffer from oppression and miscarriage of justice; and the passing of such rigorous measures as the Bengal Municipal Bill will but render Government increasingly unpopular.

SUHRID,
May 23rd, 1876.

3. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Tangail, remarks:—Though from the proceeds of the road cess, roads are now constructed in different parts of the country for promoting facilities of communication, still the cess is doing one serious evil. Many talookdars and ryots, whose lands have been taken up for these roads, have become great losers. Internal trade also shews signs of decline, from the difficulty with which boats can now navigate the rivers. It may therefore well be asked whether the dredging of silted-up rivers would not be more beneficial than the construction of bridges across them. Most places under the Tangail sub-division possess the facility of communication by water, if only the rivers could be made navigable. Government is asked to make enquiries into this matter, and consult the opinion of the people concerned therewith.

SAPTANIK SAMACHAR,
May 23rd, 1876.

4. In an article, under the heading of "Professional Education," the *Sáptáñik Samáchar*, of the 23rd May, makes the following observations:—This education may be imparted in two ways—one is to impart it to those who have obtained a liberal education; and the other, to teach the artizans of this country, who have only become skilled in their work by being long accustomed to it. In both ways good results may be expected. In the former a profession will be adorned and improved, while the discontent of the educated class will be removed; and in the latter, the ignorant artizans will be enabled to bring theoretical knowledge to bear upon their experience. We do not know what sort of education will be imparted first, but perhaps it is the object of Sir Richard Temple to try the latter first in the school lately founded in connection with the Kidderpore workshop. But technical education is of various kinds, such as painting, sculpture, the work of a carpenter, and so on, in which a little knowledge of science, particularly that of chemistry, is required. It therefore behoves the advocates of the latter kind of education to consider that it is extremely difficult for the artizans of this country to learn chemistry,—a science which, it is well-known, cannot be easily mastered, even by those who have received some measure of education. We, however, think it desirable that technical education should be imparted to the educated classes, to remove their discontents, as also to set an example to the illiterate artizans. It is proper to teach those professions first, in which large profits can be expected to accrue from a small capital, as those who generally betake themselves to them can boast of but very little wealth. Also provision should be made for admitting into the Arts Schools those students who have passed no higher than the Entrance Examination; because there will be hardly time enough for those who have gone farther in their studies to take to these professions. We hope that the projected college of the Indian League will, when opened, impart professional education to the educated classes and be affiliated with the Calcutta University. Government should provide scholarships for the students of the Arts School, and secure competent teachers from England.

SAPTANIK SAMACHAR.

5. A correspondent of the same paper says that Government should keep a vigilant eye on the proceedings of Mr. R. C. Dutt, Joint-Magistrate

of Bongong, in the district of Nuddea. He has the fault very common in English civilians, namely, ignorance of the country and the manners and customs of the people over whom they rule. His ignorance of his own country is sufficiently seen from the unsatisfactory way in which he administers justice, and from his various other acts. We do not wish to put a well-educated man of our own nation to shame by particularly mentioning any of them here. We earnestly pray that he should be transferred from Bongong. In our opinion, more evil than good is done by allowing a Magistrate or any judicial officer to remain in charge of any particular place for a long period. We do not of course say that no good can result from this system. We simply mean that the proportion of evil becomes greater; though we know that there are some officers from whose acts particular localities may derive much benefit, if they are allowed to remain there for a long time.

6. In an article on the miserable state of the peasantry and petty zemindars of this country, the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 25th May, says that, on account of their poverty, they are forced to borrow money at high rates of interest, in order to cover the necessary expenses of food and clothing. Many families have been literally ruined by the exorbitant interests they were obliged to pay; and year by year numbers of agriculturists and petty landholders suffer such distress, and gradually become destitute of every thing they possess. It is the duty of every good Government to seek to remove the misery of the subjects. Government ought to adopt the system of the Prussian Government on this point, viz., lend money at low rates of interest to the peasantry. In order to accomplish this object, it should establish some banks at most accessible places, where the poor peasants and petty landholders may get money without much difficulty.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 25th, 1876.

7. We extract the following from the same paper:—The ideas which a man, at the very outset, forms of a nation or a country cannot be easily removed. Hence, it is desirable that as soon as our English rulers touch the soil of India, and take into their hands the reins of government, they ought to see with their own eyes the state of the country and the people they are to govern; otherwise the opinions they form from the information of others will very likely be erroneous; for the latter do not give such information as may be hostile to their own interests or favorable to the people of India. Lord Lytton, before he has known anything of the state of the country, has become surrounded by his ministers, owing to whose evil influence many a former Viceroy was not able to carry out his noble views. From his hopeful words we had expected that he would remain in the metropolis, and seek to know the true state of India by his own observations, as well as from the various representative bodies of the country. But our expectations have been in vain; for he is now at his elevated seat on the Simla hills, whence there is no possibility of obtaining any correct information about the state of the country.

BHARAT MIHIR.

8. Adverting to the assumption of the title of "Empress of India" by the Queen, the same paper remarks:—While a great sensation has been created in England in reference to this subject, there has been nothing but quiet in India. The people of Hindustan have rather shown their loyalty, and have felt themselves extremely happy on the assumption of the title. But little did they dream that, on this occasion, the subjection of India, which had long been made total in fact, was now done in name also. It is true that India had lost her liberty long ago, still there was the name left; but now she has lost both.

BHARAT MIHIR.

BHARAT MINIR,
May 25th, 1876.

9. With reference to the unsatisfactory conduct of Mr. Grant, the Sessions Judge of Mymensingh, the same paper says, that he, who was lately so much praised for his discerning intellect, sound judgment, great care, and diligence, has now become extremely unpopular; and there are undoubtedly good grounds for this unpopularity. He now shows great favor and partiality towards the police,—a body who are justly very unpopular for their lack of good sense and morality, and who are notorious for the intolerable oppressions they commit. Besides this, there are other causes of Mr. Grant's unpopularity—his cruel and improper treatment of witnesses; the tendency he manifests to believe in the depositions of the plaintiff's witnesses only, and his late blameable conduct towards the two respectable assessors whom he charged with bribery and corruption, and towards whom he used many hard and insulting terms. Such a person as Mr. Grant ought not to be placed in any high and responsible situation. The great reputation of the British Government for the impartial administration of justice cannot be preserved by such narrow-minded and hot-headed men.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 25th, 1876.

10. In its opening article, headed, "Sir Richard Temple and the Middle-class Tenants," the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 25th May, makes the following observations:—Act X of 1859 is the chief cause of the present misery of the middle-class men. Though there has been mention made, in that Act, of the rights of middlemen, yet the relation between them and the landlords has not been defined; while that between the cultivating ryots and the zemindars has been fully determined. By virtue of this Act, the zemindars included the middlemen among the cultivating ryots, and assessed their rents at the same rates with the latter; and if the High Court had not decided in their favor, they would have, by this time, been perfectly ruined. Sir Richard Temple has expressed a desire to amend the Act, and for this object he has lately written a Minute on the determination of rents; he has not, however, been free from a great error. He has not mentioned even the name of the intermediate class, but has only endeavoured to show at what rates the rent between the ryots and zemindars should be fixed. In this country, there are three classes who are chiefly concerned with land. The first class, the zemindars, pay rent directly to the Government; the second class, namely, the middlemen, pay their rent to the former; and the third class consists of the cultivating ryots. The produce of the land is distributed among them; and all of them have rights to it. If Sir Richard Temple makes any amendments in the rent law, he should, at the very outset, determine the relations among these three classes, and find out the best means of dividing among them the price of the produce. To the working of Act X may be ascribed the agrarian risings, by which Government is so much troubled from time to time, and to check which Sir Richard Temple is so firmly determined. There would not have been so much confusion and dissatisfaction, if the legislature had in the above Act laid down the rights of the middlemen. This Act has well nigh proved their ruin. It is by no means safe to ignore the rights of any class of the tenantry, especially that of the middle class, who constitute the back-bone of society. When the zemindars, on the strength of this Act, attack them, they try to defend themselves at the risk of losing everything they possess. A hard struggle ensues, but the law being on the side of the former, they ultimately come off victorious. In their attempts to put the middlemen down, the zemindars themselves become weakened; but ultimately the poor ryots are made to suffer, from their rents being raised until there is no difference between them and the rates at which the intermediate class is

assessed by the zemindars. This occasions oppression, which ultimately gives birth to risings; in which they are the more encouraged when they see both the zemindars and middlemen weakened by mutual struggles. In this way fearful confusion has arisen in this country. If Sir Richard Temple intends to remove it, he should amend Act X; otherwise this confusion, which has been somewhat mitigated, will return in full force. Up to this time, the rent laws enacted by Government have been in accordance with the advice of the zemindars, who eagerly desire the ruin of the intermediate class, because thus only would the money, which now goes into the hands of the second and third-class tenants, fill their pockets. Hence, they over-looked the interests of the second-class ryots at the time when Act X was framed. Perhaps they have done the same thing on the present occasion. Their opinion has been asked by Sir Richard Temple on the new rent law. But if he follow their advice, we fear we shall no more hear of the existence of the middlemen; they will soon be an extinct race. The ruin of this class is not at all desirable, for most of the educated men and respectable families belong to it. Many of them possess small landed properties, and, but for these, they would be in want of necessary food and clothing, in which case it would be the duty of the Government to support them; otherwise their feelings of loyalty would be weakened. It is not advisable that Government should adopt such unjust and extreme measures against them at the request of a self-interested class.

11. With reference to the assumption of the title of "Empress of India" by the Queen, the same paper observes:—The editors of almost all the leading English papers, and some of the English noblemen, who, from their great attachment to the Royal family, have been highly pleased with the natives of India, on account of the hospitality and loyalty shown towards the Prince of Wales during his late visit to this country, have proposed that from this time forth the people of India should be elevated to the highest positions. Before the Queen had assumed the above title there was a wide gap between her and Hindustan; but now it has been bridged over, and we are brought nearer to her; and this is the proper time to advance and show our perfect loyalty to our Empress, and ask some boon from her which she cannot possibly deny. We hope to reap many advantages now. Our grievances will now be listened to and redressed. The Indian League is doing well to forward an address to the Queen on the occasion of her assuming the title of Empress of India. Lastly, we ought to defend Mr. Disraeli in the difficult position he is now in, in connection with this title; for he may possibly remember our support and do us some good in future.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 25th, 1876.

12. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 27th May, says that the zemindars of this country meet difficulties in various ways. The ryots do not look on them with affection and regard; while the Government thinks that they command their highest esteem, and have complete power over them. In particular places they are ordered to recruit coolies for the public service; but these are afraid to take employment under the Government officers—such a good name have they throughout the country! If the zemindars force the coolies, they are charged with illegal confinement or assault, and duly punished; while, on the other hand, if they neglect to carry out the orders of the local officers, fines are imposed on them; so that they have to meet difficulties on both sides. We are sorry to learn that a zemindar of Sylhet has lately been grossly insulted for this. If our rulers continue to behave so mercilessly towards the zemindars, we do not see what remedy is there for them.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
May 27th, 1876.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
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13. The same paper says that the Government has ordered the local officers to be particularly attentive in introducing the Chowkeedaree Act into the mofussil stations of the Dacca district. The Magistrate has accordingly taken up the duty, and ordered the Act to be introduced first into Moonsheegunge and Manikgunge. To give effect to it, punchayets are to be appointed in every village, who shall, on their part, appoint the chowkeedars, and fix the rates to be imposed on the people. We, however, do not expect any good from the introduction of this Act here; for men appointed to manage the affairs will, we fear, be often found to look to their own interests, instead of seeking the welfare of the people in general. There will probably be such men who always keep at home, and consequently whose unfitness for work, and partiality will be found to be very great. Hence, we would ask our rulers to see to this business, by looking into the character of the members who shall constitute the punchayets.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

14. In a very long article, on the conduct of the judicial officers, the same paper makes the following observations:—The officers of the civil courts give a great deal of unnecessary trouble to suitors who come to seek justice. When a suit is instituted, the officer appoints a particular day for hearing it, without any consideration as to whether he would be able to decide it then or not. When the day comes, he finds he cannot take up the case, and therefore postpones it, and the day then fixed passes away without the case being decided. So that there are continued and repeated adjournments, which give an enormous amount of trouble to the suitors, who must needs be present in the court on every day which may be thus fixed, with their witnesses; for it might be that in their absence the case would be decreed or dismissed *ex parte*, or cancelled. This is extremely unfair, and even dishonest; and it is the duty of the higher authorities to see that such dishonesty is not encouraged. We can certainly affirm that in no district courts is a case decided on the first day of its hearing; but we find that such is the case in the small cause court and the moonsiff's court. It is a matter of great regret that the judicial officers of the lower courts do not consider it unjust or unwise to make people undergo so much trouble and loss for nothing. They needlessly exercise the power entrusted to them, being ignorant of the fact that they are public servants. Nay, many of them even venture to exercise power which they do not possess. It is essentially necessary that those in whose hands lies the administration of justice should be conscientious men; but we find that many of them are far from being so; they seek to deceive litigants by the intricate construction of the law, and hastily decide cases at their expense, from a fear that if the number of suits disposed of be small, they will have no promotion. In such hasty decisions justice cannot be expected. But is it desirable that there should be such injustice in courts? Moreover, these officers use rude and insulting language towards the witnesses; but it is not our object to dwell on that subject now. We only desire to point out that they ought not to go beyond their capacity, and should not endeavour to do what it is almost impossible for them to do. An officer who cannot decide more than 50 cases in a month, ought not to fix the days of 300 cases to be heard in that short period. This course is only productive of trouble and loss to the litigants. We pray that our rulers take notice of such matters, and see whether what we say is true or false. They will find that, in the name of justice, terrible injustice and oppression are committed in the lower courts. It does not at all behove a Government famed for the impartial administration of justice and honesty of principles to suffer such a state of things to continue.

15. Adverting to the case of Baboo Laul Chand Chowdhari, a member of the municipality of Chittagong, the same paper says that in this case the disposition of Mr. Kirkwood, Joint-Magistrate of that place, is sufficiently revealed. One cannot always manage to keep himself safe from attacks that may be unjustly made against him by a District Magistrate. It is only because Baboo Laul Chand Chowdhari is a rich zemindar that he has been able to save himself by spending a vast sum of money. Who is there that is not inspired with fear at seeing such unjust behaviour in a man in whose hands lie the safety and protection of the property, honor, and life of a great number of people? The people are anxious to know what steps the Government will take against the Magistrate for his unjust and illegal behaviour towards the Baboo. Sir George Campbell gave unlimited power into the hands of the District Magistrates, and hence we often hear of their unjust and rude behaviour;—not receiving any check, they become more unruly. Sometimes they are reprov'd by the higher authorities, but being conscious that they are more directly under the power of the Lieutenant-Governor, they totally disregard them. We, however, hope that Sir Richard Temple will look into the late conduct of Mr. Kirkwood.

HINDU HITOSHINI,
May 27th, 1876.

16. In its opening article, the *Sádháraní*, of the 21st May, writes that in most of the institutions founded in this country by the British Government, the natives are invited to take part as members or otherwise for the management of affairs; but they meet with nothing but disgrace, in return for their services, at the hands of men set to preside over them. The system of municipal taxation and the elective system have been introduced into this country, and the natives are appointed as members to conduct the affairs of the municipalities; but in return for their services they only reap insults and oppressions at the hands of the Vice-Chairman or the Chairman. The cases of Baboo Nemy Churn Seal of Chinsura, and Baboo Laul Chand Chowdhari of Chittagong, are clearly to the point. The British have taught us the value of bodily strength, but obstacles have been thrown in the path of its being effectual by excluding natives from the military service. High Government situations have indeed been opened to the natives, but there is a mighty obstacle to be overcome before any is obtained; for unless they go to England and pass the examination there, they are not entitled to be placed in such positions. Lately, the Marquis of Salisbury has made this obstacle still stronger, by requiring the candidates for the Civil Service examination to be no more than 19 years of age. The native press is indeed free, but no efforts are made to redress the grievances reported in it. The people of India are allowed admission into the Legislative Council, but the election of the members is left in the hands of the Government, and consequently only men of their own liking are appointed, who, it is well known, will never oppose any proposition so long as they can safely avoid it. So that where a shade of liberty is granted to the natives of India, there also are thrown various obstacles to check its exercise.

SADHARANI,
May 21st, 1876.

17. Adverting to the subject of the large increase in the number of Bengali novels and dramas, the same paper remarks that under the patronising care of the English Government there is no want felt of books, no matter whether good or bad, interesting or uninteresting, profitable or injurious. A large sum of money is spent every year for the purpose of giving encouragement to native authors. So long as a book is not obscene no attention is paid to its merits. If Government had been strict with reference to morals, religion, and so forth, as it has been with respect to obscenity, there would have been undoubtedly a marked improvement in Bengali

SADHARANI.

literature, and discouragement to useless authors. The number of the latter has of late increased very rapidly and enormously; and that is because of the vitiated taste of the present age, which leads so many to read novels and dramas. It is, however, highly desirable that they should meet no encouragement from Government, as their productions are merely trash, and very prejudicial to the moral and intellectual improvement of the reader.

SADHABANI,
May 21st, 1876.

18. In an article headed "A Drop of Water in a Desert," the same paper says that Bengal is a great desert where corn has long ceased to grow, and where the tanks have become dried up. The inhabitants are without sympathy and union, and want courage and strength. But we are glad to see some drops of water fall on this desert. Lately the people of Calcutta, forgetting their individual interests, became united and marched onward to oppose the introduction of the new Municipal Act into the metropolis by Sir Richard Temple. Though they met with nothing but defeat, still we are neither sorry for, nor discouraged by, it. We are rather happy to see that, if we please, we can forget our self-interests and can unite against an unjust measure. This union is a drop of water in the dry and vast desert of Bengal. We are fully conscious that our hope of success has long ceased to exist since the triumph of Bukhthyar Khilliji.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 28th, 1876.

19. Adverting to the publication of the "Black Pamphlet," and the proposed meeting of a number of citizens of Calcutta to enquire into the subject of the late famine expenditure, the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 28th May, observes:—We do not know what may be the object of the promoters of this meeting. In how many ways is public money wasted! But they do not make the least stir about them. We admit that the expenditure incurred by Lord Northbrook for the suppression of the famine was not without waste. But it should be considered that a certain measure of waste is unavoidable in all such vast undertakings. It is the opinion of many, and we are among them, that the preparations made for relief were somewhat in excess of the demand; that the persons entrusted with the expenditure of money were not always the fittest for the task; and that several contractors and other officials filled their pockets with a large portion of this sum. But all this could not possibly be avoided. We should be gratified, and feel thankful to Government for the fact, that not a single person died of starvation during the late famine. It would be sheer ingratitude on our part, if attempts were now made to question the noble motives of Government in connection with the relief operations; and, by enquiring into the expenditure, to pass a vote of censure on it. It does not, on the contrary, behove Government to lay aside its habitual dignity and greatness, and attend to such agitations. Since the large majority of the people have no sympathy with this movement, Government may safely ignore it and the "Black Pamphlet." We, however, regret to hear that Sir Richard Temple has, in this matter, somewhat lost the usual serenity of his temper.

DACCA PRAKASH.

20. Complaints have been repeatedly made to Government, says the same paper, as to the irregular proceedings of Mr. T. A. Donough, the Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Jamalpore division of the Mymensing district; but strange to remark, no notice has yet been taken of them. We, however, beg to direct the attention of Government to the affidavit lately filed before the moonsif of Jamalpore, for submission before the High Court, by one Jogéndranáráyan Chuckerbutty of the same place, giving a somewhat detailed account of Mr. Donough's proceedings. A searching enquiry should be made into the truth of the allegations made in the affidavit.

21. The *Soma Prakash*, of the 29th May, writes the following in its opening editorial, on the Poverty of India:—In a previous article we have shown how the British Government has been involving India in debts, and impoverishing her by its policy of entertaining Englishmen, by making her pay the interest on the Indian debt, as also for the wars which England may wage in Asia or Africa. There are two other powerful causes of India's poverty, to one of which, however, we shall refer in the present article. The population of India is gradually increasing, but the produce of the country is not increasing at that rate. We indeed see that Government has caused the construction of roads and ghâts, the excavation of canals, and the opening of railway lines, and has thus facilitated the transport of grain from one part of the country to another. Lands which were never brought under the plough at any former period are now, under the prosperous rule of the British nation, smiling corn-fields. All the country, from the flinty soil of the Hîmâlayas to the Sunderbuns, covered with eternal forest, is now under cultivation. The number of idle people also is fast diminishing; the young and old, the rich and poor, are all busy in different kinds of work. The British are showing us what progress India has made, how wealth is fast increasing, and how the subjects are growing happier and more prosperous.

SOMA PRAKASH,
May 29th, 1876.

These, however, look very well on the surface: a different sight presents itself when we go a little deeper. First, though there has been progress in agriculture, the natives have no share in the increased profits; and though a larger extent of land has now been brought under cultivation than was formerly the case, there is the fact that not an inconsiderable area is taken up with tea and indigo. We are not opposed to those industries,—nay, we consider that it would be but beneficial if these and other industries were carried on more extensively than at present. The tea and indigo industries are, however, mostly in the hands of Europeans. Trampling the permanent settlement under foot, they are in a manner introducing the British *thickâdâri* system into this country. And this is simply because we have no cultivating laborers like those in England. They give advances and then compel the peasantry to grow these crops, which are afterwards purchased at only nominal prices. Far from deriving any profits from their labor, they can barely afford to pay for their food and clothing; while the tea and indigo planters reap the fruits of their labor. Besides these, a large extent of land is taken up by Government for the manufacture of opium.

Secondly, British competition has ruined the manufactures of this country. If agriculture yields increased profits, that fact sinks into nothing, in view of the loss which India suffers from the destruction of her indigenous manufactures. The selfishness of the British has indeed ruined India. They have destroyed all sorts of native manufactures. Even for the supply of the most necessary articles of life, we are now obliged to look up to the British.

22. Adverting to the case of Baboo Laul Chand Chowdhari and Mr. Kirkwood, the Magistrate of Chittagong, the same paper makes the following comments:—Government should not remain indifferent to this matter. Mr. Kirkwood affords but one instance of the overbearing character of the executive in the mofussil. Let Government see and learn how oppressive they may become where there is no public opinion to fear, and no newspaper criticism to dread. What oppression would be more humiliating than compelling gentlemen to guard public privies? Does Mr. Kirkwood think that we are descended from coolies and mehters? Have we, because of our subjection, become more degraded than even coolies? Strange

SOMA PRAKASH.

SAHACHAR,
May 29th, 1876.

indeed! A common official has had the boldness to carry things to such a pitch! Native newspapers alone are generally taken to task as writing sedition, but Government do not seem to consider that the rude conduct of their worthless and hot-headed officers does tenfold more evil in this direction than the native prints. Government should make an example of such men, otherwise the people will construe its inaction into sympathy with the officials.

23. In the course of a lengthy editorial on the government of this country, the *Sahachar*, of the 29th May, dwells on the evil of over-legislation, which is largely indulged in by the rulers in this country. Representations have been repeatedly made against this growing evil. The more the laws are multiplied, the greater will be the confusion in the work of administration. Our rulers do not remain idle, even for a moment, in making laws, which have thus attained an incredibly high number. On whatever side you turn, there is some law; for every whim which may arise in the minds of the rulers, there is a law enacted. Their power is supreme, and without any control. The opinion of the subjects is not consulted. The latter are thought to be no better than dogs or jackals, and who shall hear them? It is wrong to think that men possessed of such unrestrained powers should refrain from flooding the country with laws; and not only does the Viceroy legislate, but the Governors of Madras and Bombay, and the several Lieutenant-Governors also are busy in this work. Legislation is regarded as a panacea for all evils. By legislation our rulers hope to accomplish the promotion of virtue, the suppression of crime, and to induce order and method in the work of administration, similar to what obtain in the domain of nature. Laws will make roads and ghâts, laws will bring offenders to justice, and laws will evoke loyalty from the hearts of the subjects and make them happy and prosperous. Our rulers seem to forget that all social phenomena are, in their working, guided by invariable laws; and that any change in their course, to be beneficial and lasting, must be a work of time, and the result of the united and spontaneous efforts of the people themselves. It is needless to say that much of the legislation of the day is marked by signs of undue haste and want of consideration.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
May 30th, 1876.

24. The *Sulabha Samâchâr*, of the 30th May, observes that it would be indeed difficult to give a satisfactory reply to the question, so often asked by the people, as to what benefits have accrued to India from the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Beyond spending the time in festivities and receptions, and exchanging presents with the native Princes of India, and conferring knighthood on Mr. Hogg and others, nothing of importance was done during the time the visit lasted.

**SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,**
May 29th, 1876.

25. The *Samâchâr Chandrikâ*, of the 29th May, directs the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the arbitrary and illegal proceedings of Mr. Kirkwood, the Magistrate of Chittagong, against Baboo Laul Chand Chowdhari, a zemindar and a Municipal Commissioner of that place. It is eagerly hoped that His Honor will repair the injustice committed, and thus pacify the people.

**SAMBAD PURNA-
CHANDRODAYA,**
May 27th, 1876.

26. The *Sambad Pûrnachandrodaya*, of the 27th May, complains that the subordinate police officers are utterly indifferent to the inconvenience occasioned to the public from the foot-paths of the city being occupied by mango-vendors and their baskets, and the articles belonging to the shopkeepers living on the adjacent grounds.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 3rd June 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

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*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
3rd June 1876.*

| No. | Name. | Place of publication. | Monthly, weekly, or otherwise. | Date. |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | "Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ... | Kákinia, Rungpore ... | Weekly ... | 27th April 1876. |
| 2 | "Sádháraní" ... | Chinsurah ... | Ditto ... | 21st May 1876. |
| 3 | "Howrah Hitakarí" ... | Bethar, Howrah ... | Ditto ... | 21st ditto. |
| 4 | "Suhrid" ... | Muktágáchá, Mymensing ... | Ditto ... | 23rd ditto. |
| 5 | "Sáptáhhik Samáchar" ... | Calcutta ... | Ditto ... | 23rd ditto. |
| 6 | "Hindu Ranjiká" ... | Bauleah, Rájshahye ... | Ditto ... | 24th ditto. |
| 7 | "Amrita Bazar Patriká" ... | Calcutta ... | Ditto ... | 25th ditto. |
| 8 | "Bhárat Mihir" ... | Mymensing ... | Ditto ... | 25th ditto. |
| 9 | "Education Gazette" ... | Hooghly ... | Ditto ... | 26th ditto. |
| 10 | "Pratikár" ... | Berhampore ... | Ditto ... | 26th ditto. |
| 11 | "Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | 26th ditto. |
| 12 | "Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ... | Comercolly ... | Ditto ... | 27th ditto. |
| 13 | "Hindu Hitoishini" ... | Dacca ... | Ditto ... | 27th ditto. |
| 14 | "Dacca Prakásh" ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | 28th ditto. |
| 15 | "Soma Prakásh" ... | Bhowanipore ... | Ditto ... | 29th ditto. |
| 16 | "Sahachar" ... | Calcutta ... | Ditto ... | 29th ditto. |
| 17 | "Sulabha Samáchar" ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | 30th ditto. |
| 18 | "Samáchar Chandriká" ... | Ditto ... | Bi-Weekly ... | 25th and 29th May 1876. |
| 19 | "Sambád Prabhákar" ... | Ditto ... | Daily ... | 26th to 30th ditto. |
| 20 | "Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | 27th May to 1st June 1876. |
| 21 | "Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi) ... | Bankipore, Patna ... | Weekly ... | 24th May 1876. |
| 22 | "Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ... | Calcutta ... | Ditto ... | 27th ditto. |
| 23 | "Jám-Jehán-numá" (in Persian) ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | 2nd June 1876. |

Bengal Secretariat Press.

